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Secretary: C. Stuart Gager.

Treasurer: William Mansfield.

Editor: Marshall Avery Howe.

Corresponding secretary: On motion the election of a corresponding secretary was indefinitely postponed.

Associate editors: John Hendley Barnhart, Jean Broadhurst, Philip Dowell, Alexander William Evans, Tracy Elliot Hazen, William Alphonso Murrill, Charles Louis Pollard, and Herbert Maule Richards.

The chairman appointed Dr. Small and Dr. Gager as auditing committee.

After an informal discussion of the personnel of the committees to be appointed for the ensuing year, the club, on motion; adjourned at ten o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Raymond H. Pond, who sailed for Europe early in November, is studying in the laboratory of Professor Ludwig Jost in Bonn.

Mr. A. P. Morgan, well known as a collector and student of the fungi, died at his home in Preston, Ohio, on October 19, 1907.

Dr. William A. Murrill, for the past two years first assistant of the staff of the New York Botanical Garden, has been advanced to the rank of assistant director of that institution.

Professor Edward S. Burgess, vice-president of the Torrey Botanical Club, has been acting president of the Normal College of the City of New York since the death of Acting-President Gillet.

Dr. Hermann Graf zu Solms-Laubach, editor of the *Botanische Zeitung*, has retired from the professorship of botany at the University of Strassburg. He will be succeeded by Dr. Ludwig Jost of the Royal Agricultural Academy at Bonn.

Dr. W. A. Kellerman, professor of botany in the Ohio State University, is now on his fourth winter expedition to Guatemala,

accompanied by several student assistants. As on previous visits, he will give special attention to collecting parasitic fungi.

Dr. Anstruther A. Lawson, recently of the department of botany of the Leland Stanford Junior University, passed through New York in December on his way to the University of Glasgow, where he has accepted a position as assistant in botany.

"A Synopsis of the North American Godetias" by Professor Willis Linn Jepson and "Compositae of Southern California" by Mr. Harry Monroe Hall are two important papers of taxonomic interest, which appeared in December in the botanical series of the University of California Publications.

Through the generosity of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the herbarium of the late Dr. Otto Kuntze of San Remo, Italy, has been purchased for the New York Botanical Garden. This herbarium is estimated to contain over 30,000 specimens, including a considerable number of "types" from South America and other parts of the world visited by Dr. Kuntze during his extensive botanical tours.

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton and Dr. Arthur Hollick of the New York Botanical Garden sailed for Kingston, Jamaica, on February 22. They will be joined at Kingston by Mr. William Harris, superintendent of the Public Gardens and Plantations of Jamaica, and will then make collections at the western end of the island, with the aid of a Bahamian schooner which has been chartered for the purpose. It is expected that a stop will be made at Guantanamo, Cuba, on the return voyage.

No. 6 of the Augustana Library Publications is a Linné Memorial, in which the leading paper is an interesting account of "Scandinavians who have Contributed to the Knowledge of the Flora of North America" by Dr. Per Axel Rydberg. Biographical sketches and bibliographies of 104 Scandinavians and Scandinavian-Americans are included. Pehr Kalm, Carl von Linné, Olof Swartz, Martin Vahl, Elias M. Fries, J. G. Agardh, S. O. Lindberg, Th. M. Fries, J. M. C. Lange, Baron H. F. A. Eggers, William Nylander, Nils Gustaf Lagerheim, F. M. Lieberman, A. S. Örsted, N. C. Kindberg, Theodor Holm, Aven Nelson, and P. A. Rydberg, are among the better-known names in the distinguished list.

A notable event in the progress of science and of public education in New York is the bequest of \$1,000,000 to the American Museum of Natural History by Morris K. Jesup, who was its president from 1882 to his death on January 22, 1908. The provision in his will relating to the museum reads, in part, as follows:

I give and bequeath to the American Museum of Natural History in the City of New York \$1,000,000, to constitute a permanent fund, the principal to be invested and kept invested, and the income to be applied and apportioned to the general purposes of the museum, other than alterations, additions, repairs, or erection of buildings, the purchase of land, or the payment of salaries, or for labor or for services of any kind ordinarily considered under the item of maintenance. * * * I believe it [the museum] to be today one of the most effective agencies which exist in the City of New York for furnishing education, innocent amusement, and instruction to its people. It can be immensely increased in its usefulness by increasing its powers.

The following resolution adopted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its recent Chicago meeting, on recommendation of Section F (zoölogy) is of interest to the students of plants as well as of animals:

Realizing that the work in the Panama Canal is changing biological conditions in Panama and that the completion of the canal will enable the fresh-water faunae of the two slopes to mingle freely and that many marine animals will succeed in passing the completed canal, the American Association for the Advancement of Science urges upon the President and Congress to make provision for a biological survey of the Panama Canal zone.

Since the conditions will be permanently changed as soon as the canal is completed and the work can not be satisfactorily done after the completion of the canal, there is great urgency that provisions for the work be made at once.

Resolved, That the permanent secretary be instructed to send copies of this resolution to the President, the Vice-President, the Speaker of the House, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Similar resolutions have been adopted by the council of the American Society of Naturalists.

The Boston Society of Natural History announces the following subjects for the Walker Prizes :

For 1908. 1. An experimental study of inheritance in animals or plants. 2. A comparative study of the effects of close-breeding and cross-breeding in animals or plants. 3. A study of animal reactions in relation to habit formation. 4. A physiological study of one (or several) species of plants with respect to leaf variation. 5. Fertilization and related phenomena in a phenogamous plant. 6. What proportion of a plant's seasonal growth is represented in the winter bud? 7. A physiographic study of the forms and processes discoverable along a varied shore line. 8. A problem in structural geology. 9. A study of one or more geological horizons with a view to determining the different conditions obtaining at one time over a large area, as recorded by sediments and fossils.

For 1909. 1. A geographic study of a district of varied features, presented as involving the natural relations of inorganic and organic elements. 2. A petrographic study of a district of crystalline rocks. 3. A paragenetic study of a mineral locality. 4. The conditions controlling sexual reproduction in plants. 5. Studies in the life history of a thallophyte, with special reference to sporogenesis. 6. Contribution to our knowledge of responses in plants. 7. The factors governing orientation in animal responses. 8. The relation between primary and secondary sex characters in animals. 9. The activities of the animal body in relation to internal secretions.

For the best memoir presented a prize of sixty dollars may be awarded ; if, however, the memoir be one of marked merit, the amount may be increased to one hundred dollars, at the discretion of the committee. For the next best memoir a prize not exceeding fifty dollars may be awarded. Prizes will not be awarded unless the memoirs presented are of adequate merit. The competition for these prizes is not restricted, but is open to all. Further particulars may be obtained by addressing Glover M. Allen, secretary, Boston Society of Natural History, Boston, Mass.

The thirteenth annual winter meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club was held at the University of Vermont, Burlington, January 17 and 18, 1908. Twenty-two titles appeared on the program and all the sessions were well attended. Among the items of more general interest were the following : Miss Phoebe Towle reported upon observations extending through several

years as to the period elapsing between blossoming and fruiting of various species of mosses. Dr. Tracy E. Hazen noted the occurrence of *Oxalis Brittoniae* in Vermont; G. L. Kirk recorded another station for the rare green dragon (*Arisaema Dracontium*); D. L. Dutton reported the discovery of the rose-root (*Sedum Rhodiola*), thus adding another to the series of arctic plants found in the Green Mountains. N. J. Giddings described a new bacterial disease of melons. In addition to other papers of local concern, two addresses were delivered by visiting scientists. The annual address was by Professor M. L. Fernald of Harvard, who was the guest of the Club and discussed the flora of the Shick-shock Mountains and the Gaspé Coast. This was illustrated by lantern slides and specimens and brought out especially the relation of plant distribution to rock formation. Mr. John Ritchie, President of the Federation of New England Natural History Societies, gave an illustrated account of Mount Washington. He invited the Vermont Club to join the other federated societies in a joint field meeting there the first of July next and it was decided so to do. The same officers were reëlected for the ensuing year, viz., president, Ezra Brainerd of Middlebury College; vice-president, C. G. Pringle; secretary, L. R. Jones of the University of Vermont; and treasurer, Mrs. N. F. Flynn of Burlington. Some twenty names were added to the active membership list, which now numbers nearly 200. This is apparently one of the largest organizations of its kind in the country. It publishes an annual *Bulletin* embodying its proceedings and botanical notes of interest to Vermont botanists.